

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC SITUATION AND PROBABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Scientific research in Eastern Germany during the Soviet Occupation has been primarily in the applied fields as distinguished from basic or pure research. It has for the most part been related to the development of heavy industry and substitute materials. Increased attention is now being given to the fields of electronics and nuclear energy and it is probable that in the future more emphasis will be placed on fundamental research.

Although the USSR has apparently consigned the control of most East German scientific effort to the administrative framework of the GDR, Soviet authorities directly control research of a military nature. It is believed, however, that at the present time military research in the GDR is not of great importance and has been reduced to a few non-vital projects. Important German military developments and projects such as the V-2 rocket were transferred to the USSR in 1947 and 1948.

Although East German scientific research complements Soviet research in certain fields such as electronics and bacteriology, the overall scientific advantage of East Germany to the USSR is not access to a superior body of knowledge. It is simply the additional scientific manpower and facilities that East Germany provides. The USSR does, however, use and, to a certain degree, depend upon East German technology, especially precision mechanics.

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